

Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500340014-8

Front Page
Edit Page
Other Page

Date:

THE SECRET CIA

One of the key factors in the mess in South Vietnam has been very much neglected. We refer to the activities, from the days before Diem was installed in 1954 as "president" of that country, of the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA.

We do not know exactly what the CIA has done and is doing in South Vietnam. Very few persons do. U.S. Congressmen and U.S. Senators don't know. Not only about the CIA in South Vietnam but anywhere else.

Here is something Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon had to say on the subject on August 23 in the Senate:

"It is difficult to speak on the floor of the Senate on what CIA policy really was, because Senators cannot find out. However, it is the responsibility of Congress to find out. For several years Congress has refused to return foreign policy to the American people. For several years Congress has refused to pass the necessary legislation that places an effective check on the CIA. Congress has permitted CIA to continue to exercise what appears, in fact, to amount to a police power in a democracy. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee I cannot tell the Senate nor can any other member of the committee—what the facts are about CIA policy in South Vietnam or anywhere else in the world."

Mr. Morse went on to say that as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he had become "very unhappy" on learning of incidents "relative to the influence the CIA has exercised throughout the world in the determination of American foreign policy, particularly including instances in Latin America." And that he brought up a report by Homer Bigart of the New York Times which declared that it was CIA influence and CIA pressure which obtained the support of the Eisenhower Administration in 1954 for the installation of Diem as South Vietnam ruler in 1954.

It is bad enough, in our opinion, for the U.S. government to be in the business of playing what is apparently a decisive role in setting up leaders in other countries. But it is even worse when a secret, unregulated, unchecked cloak-and-dagger outfit like the CIA is determining foreign policy—in the name of the American people, let us not forget—in places all over the world. What the CIA is doing should be known, as Senator Morse indicated, to the representatives of the American people, before we get into more trouble than we have now encountered in South Vietnam, which is certainly of a most serious nature.

Mr. Morse has a point when he suggests that the CIA can be compared to a secret police power operating on an international scale. How such a thing has ever become institutionalized in a democratic land is beyond us. No good can come of it, in our opinion, and we agree with Senator Morse that the Congress has an obligation to find out what the CIA has been and is up to in South Vietnam as well as elsewhere.

Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500340014-8